

**What is claimed is:**

**[Claim 1]** A removable turret for a pod-based beverage dispenser system, comprising:

a turret frame;

a turret plate; and

a turret shaft connecting said turret plate to said turret frame for rotation therewith;

said turret shaft comprising a pair of first connectors attached to said turret frame and a pair of second connectors attached to said turret wheel, said first and said second connectors releaseably mating therewith.

**[Claim 2]** The removable turret wheel of claim 1, wherein said turret plate comprises a plurality of apertures therein, said apertures sized to accommodate a beverage pod.

**[Claim 3]** The removable turret wheel of claim 1, wherein said pair of first connectors comprises a male member.

**[Claim 4]** The removable turret plate of claim 3, wherein said pair of second connectors comprises a female member.

**[Claim 5]** The removable turret wheel of claim 1, wherein said pair of first connectors comprises a female member.

**[Claim 6]** The removable turret plate of claim 5, wherein said pair of second connectors comprises a male member.

**[Claim 7]** The removable turret plate of claim 1, wherein said pair of first connectors comprises a dovetail-like shaft.

**[Claim 8]** The removable turret plate of claim 7, wherein said pair of second connectors comprises a dovetail-like groove.

**[Claim 9]** The removable turret plate of claim 1, wherein said pair of first connectors comprises a dovetail-like groove.

**[Claim 10]** The removable turret plate of claim 9, wherein said pair of second connectors comprises a dovetail-like shaft.

**[Claim 11]** The removable turret plate of claim 1, wherein said pair of second connectors comprises a pair of protrusions thereon.

**[Claim 12]** The removable turret plate of claim 11, wherein said pair of first connectors comprises a pair of apertures therein sized for said pair of protrusions.

**[Claim 13]** The removable turret plate of claim 12, wherein said pair of first connectors comprises a pair of springs positioned about said pair of apertures.

**[Claim 14]** A turret system for a pod-based beverage dispenser, comprising:  
a turret plate;  
said turret plate comprising an inner section and an outer section and with  
said inner section and said outer section defining a gap therebetween; and  
an ejection ramp positioned about said gap.

**[Claim 15]** The turret system of claim 14, further comprising a sweep arm  
positioned about said turret plate.

**[Claim 16]** The turret system of claim 14, wherein said turret plate  
comprises a top plate positioned on said inner section and said outer section.

**[Claim 17]** The turret system of claim 14, wherein said turret plate  
comprises a plurality of pod apertures positioned therein, said pod apertures  
sized to accommodate a beverage pod.

**[Claim 18]** The turret system of claim 17, wherein said ejection ramp  
comprises a first end and a second end and wherein said ejection ramp  
expands in dimension from said first end to said second end.

**[Claim 19]** The turret system of claim 18, wherein said first end of said  
ejection ramp is positioned below said plurality of pod apertures.

**[Claim 20]** The turret system of claim 18, wherein said second end of said  
ejection ramp is positioned within one of said plurality of pod apertures or said  
gap.

**[Claim 21]** A method of removing a number of pods from a turret wheel of a  
beverage dispenser with an ejection ramp and a sweep arm, comprising:  
positioning one of the number of pods within an aperture on the turret wheel;

rotating the turret wheel such that the one of the number of pods rides up the ejection ramp; and  
knocking the one of the number of pods off of the turret wheel with the sweep arm.